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Soviet scientists called 'star wars' hypocrites

By Bill Gertz
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Richard Perle, assistant secretary of defense for international security policy, charged Soviet scientists yesterday with "massive hypocrisy" in criticizing U.S. space defense research while leading Soviet military development programs ranging from the Soviet's own "star wars" ballistic missile defense to the building of nuclear missile submarines.

He also said American-Soviet scientific cooperation should not be renewed under the recent thaw in bilateral relations until the Soviet Union releases Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov from internal exile in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Perle, speaking on Capitol Hill at a meeting sponsored by the Andrei Sakharov Institute, said the United States is "on the verge" of re-establishing scientific exchanges that were canceled in 1980 after

Soviet authorities banished Mr. Sakharov to a remote city where he reportedly is under virtual house arrest. He said he opposed such an effort.

Of the Soviet scientific community's attitude toward the Strategic Defense Initiative, Mr. Perle said Soviet scientists published a letter in the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda shortly after President Reagan's March 1983 speech on space defense. The letter, he said, "deplored" the beginning of U.S. research on strategic defense.

The U.S. intelligence community was asked to identify the scientists, Mr. Perle said.

"Among the most prominent signers of that letter was the man in charge of the Soviet strategic defense program, the man who designed the anti-ballistic missile system around Moscow, the designer of the Typhoon-class Soviet ballistic missile submarine, the designer of the third-generation Soviet intercon-

tinental ballistic missile — virtually all the leadership of the Soviet scientific military-industrial complex," Mr. Perle said.

A recent CIA report on Soviet scientists opposed to U.S. space defense efforts identified the vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Yevgeniy Velikov, as the "central figure" in the Soviet laser- and particle-beam weapons research.

Mr. Perle said Soviet hypocrisy toward strategic defense has been reinforced in Soviet negotiating positions during the Geneva arms talks. Since the talks began earlier this year, the Soviet Union has called for a halt to all U.S. space defense research while continuing its own program of strategic defense.

"One of the reasons why Andrei Sakharov was exiled in Gorky is because he would not join in that hypocrisy," Mr. Perle said.

He criticized the Soviet Union for violating previous arms control agreements and specifically mentioned the Soviet radar located in central Siberia. The radar has been challenged as a phased-array system that could only be used for anti-ballistic missile defense — a violation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.